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Identical letters dated 9 January 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 8 January 2001 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, conveying the Government of Iraq's condemnation of the continuing violations of Iraq's territory and airspace by Turkish armed forces and of the entry of such forces into northern Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Al-Humaimidi**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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I should like hereunder to draw your attention to the fact that Turkish armed forces supported by fighter aircraft and helicopters have again engaged in aggression against northern Iraq and have participated in fresh hostilities.

1. On 15 December 2000, a Turkish helicopter landed in the Jiwar Qurnah area with four Turkish army commanders and one civilian person on board. They met there with the criminal Jalal Talibani, and as they were leaving they were joined by the criminal Kosrat Rasul.

2. On 16 December 2000, 600 Turkish troops armed with weapons of all types entered the northern region by way of Ibrahim al-Khalil. They took up positions in the Jiwar Qurnah area near Raniyah to assist the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) against elements hostile to that group.

3. On the night of 17/18 December 2000, Turkish special forces and armoured units entered the northern region by way of the Khabur river. They took the road leading to Koysanjaq to join up with the Turkish units already positioned there.

4. On 18 December 2000, 12 Turkish trucks towing heavy howitzers entered the northern region and headed towards Raniyah and Qal'at Dizah to assist the PUK.

5. The number of Turkish troops entering the northern part of the country on 16, 17 and 18 December 2000 was 3,000, and they deployed in the Jiwar Qurnah and Raniyah areas.

6. In the period indicated in paragraph 5 above, a total of 300 Turkish vehicles carrying military equipment of all kinds entered the northern region at different times. They were positioned near the areas of friction between the PUK and elements hostile to that group.

7. The Turkish forces are concentrated in the Khawakurak, Diyana and Koysanjaq sectors, and Turkish aircraft are reconnoitring the positions of the elements hostile to the PUK in the Qal'at Dizah, Raniyah and Qindil sectors.

8. The Turkish officers overseeing combat operations between the PUK and the elements hostile to the group in the Raniyah area are establishing their own position there in addition to the position they have in Koysanjaq.

9. The purpose of the entry of Turkish forces into the northern part of the country and of the preparations they are making in the northern region is to launch a large-scale assault on the Raniyah and Qal'at Dizah areas, where the hostile elements are to be found following the failure of the PUK group in the most recent battles.

This continuation of Turkey's unwarranted aggression is the latest in a series of recurring assaults by its forces on Iraq's territorial integrity, and it coincides with the hostile military actions being perpetrated against the country on a daily basis by the United States of America and the United Kingdom using aircraft based in Turkish, Kuwaiti and Saudi territory.

The ongoing series of hostile operations and the flagrant violations of Iraq's territory and airspace that are being committed by the Turkish armed forces only confirm Iraq's repeated warnings against the consequences of the duplicitous policy being pursued by Turkey vis-à-vis the anomalous situation in northern Iraq and against Turkey's participation in perpetuating that situation by open interference in the internal affairs of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq condemns and deplores in the strongest terms the ongoing violation of Iraq's territory and airspace by the Turkish armed forces, which is incompatible with the principles of good-neighbourliness as well as those embodied in international law and the Charter of the United Nations. It categorically rejects the flimsy arguments and pretexts by which Turkey seeks to justify its military incursions into northern Iraq. The alleged pursuit of elements that pose a threat to Turkey's national security cannot legitimize its continued pursuit of this policy, one that is entirely at odds with its declared commitment to Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Turkey's distress is basically due to the anomalous situation in the area that was imposed by the United States and the United Kingdom acting in cooperation with the Government of Turkey itself.

As it condemns and deplores the ongoing Turkish aggression in the strongest terms, the Government of Iraq calls upon the Turkish Government to desist forthwith from these unwarranted hostile practices and to withdraw its invading forces from Iraqi territory without delay. It further calls upon the Turkish Government to refrain from any repetition of hostile acts that are incompatible with the principles of good-neighbourliness and those embodied in international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The Government of Iraq reserves in full its right to determine a time and a place to respond to these bellicose actions, and it affirms the right of the Republic of Iraq, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to ensure that Turkey bears full international responsibility for the consequences of its continuing aggression, its violations of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and its exposure of Iraq's security to the gravest risks.

As I express the hope that the United Nations will fulfil its responsibilities as stipulated in the Charter and will prevent any continuation of Turkish aggression, I ask you to do your utmost to urge the Turkish Government to comply with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law by ceasing its military aggression and its interference in Iraq's internal affairs and by withdrawing its armed forces from Iraq's territory forthwith.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq